

# Story Writing



Level 6

## Where to Start?

This kind of writing will be great fun for you as you learn about plots, characterization, and the setting for a good story. Perhaps you could write a story set in the historical time period you are studying right now. Use your imagination!

Find out from your teacher:

- \* How long is the story to be?
- \* How many characters should you use?
- \* How will the story be graded?

## Characters and Plots

Do you have a strong plot in mind? Or do you see some your characters more clearly? Your teacher can give you either a Story Map (to outline the plot) or a Characterization Grid (to describe your characters) as a starting point. Use this tool to help you plan your story.

## Writing the First Draft

- \* Try using a tape recorder and telling your story into it. If you don't like it, start again. Once you have "told" all you can, start writing it down.
- \* If you are having a hard time beginning the story, start writing in the middle. You can come back to the beginning and write it later. As you are drafting, you may think of the perfect way to start your story.
- \* Keep your story simple. You don't want to have too many characters or events that you need to write about.
- \* If you get tangled in your plot lines, go back to your Story Map and untangle them with your teacher's help. Sometimes you need to adjust your plot according to the new directions the story has taken.
- \* Stick to your deadline. Don't be afraid to *end* your story. Ask for help if you need it.

## Editing the Draft

Your teacher has a list of questions to discuss with you once you have finished writing the first draft. Let her help you with the details of your story, showing you how to rewrite different areas to make them better. Writing stories is fun, but it also takes practice.

## Odds and Ends

It is not unusual for a story to go through several drafts. Like all writing projects, this paper should be edited, polished, and then presented. Think about these things:

- \* Who will your audience be?
- \* Can Dad read your story out loud at the dinner table?
- \* Can you submit it to a story-writing contest?
- \* Will you send it to the *Tapestry* website for publication?